

Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission
Meeting Minutes

September 10, 2016, 9:00 AM – 12:00 P.M.
Portage City Hall, 7900 S. Westnedge Ave., Portage, MI 49002

Attendance

Present: Nasim Ansari, Scott T. Ayotte, Connie Dang, Jamie Hsu, Roland Hwang, Jin-Kyu Koh, Anand Kumar, David Long, Kaushik Nag, Ryan Rosario and Joe Tasma

By phone: Grace Lee and Jeffrey Vang

Ex-officio and Guests: Shelly Edgerton, Director of LARA, Bing Goei, Director of MONA and Muhith Musabbir, MAPAAC Fellow, Vijay K. Mehta, Betty Lee Ongley, Larry Shaffer, Mary Balkema, John Taylor, Adrian Vazquez, Ying Zeng, Jon Hoadley, Wolfgang Schlör, Mayor Pete Strazdas, Don Cooley, Brandt Idu and Weichia Huang

Staff: Denise Yee Grim, Outreach Coordinator

Unable to attend: Asim Alavi, Willie Dechavez, Lisa Gray, Soraya Kim, Toshiki Masaki, Mahima Mahadevan and Tsu-Yin Wu

I. Call to Order

Chairperson Jamie Hsu called the regular meeting of the Michigan Asian Pacific American Affairs Commission to order at 9:03 a.m. on September 10, 2016.

Jamie thanked commissioner Nasim Ansari for hosting the meeting and gave an overview of MAPAAC and its initiatives. The commissioners did self-introductions to the City of Portage's officials. Mayor Peter Strazdas welcomed the commissioners to the city of Portage and introduced their elected officials and community officials. He gave an overview of their community and the quality of life in Portage. Dr. Wolfgang Schlör, Associate Provost of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education at Western Michigan University (WMU), gave an overview of WMU and the Haenicke Institute programs. Following Dr. Schlör, Ms. Ying Zeng, Senior Coordinator of Asia, gave an overview of the Confucius Institute programs and activities at WMU.

Jamie introduced Shelly Edgerton, the new director of LARA, and she gave a brief introduction of LARA and welcomed MAPAAC to the department, which will be official on October 1, 2016.

II. Approval of June 10, 2016 Meeting Minutes:

Jamie submitted the June 10, 2016 meeting minutes for approval on behalf of Toshiki Masaki, Secretary. There was a correction to remove Jin-Kyu Koh's name as a member of the MONA's joint legislative/advocacy committee. Roland Hwang motioned to approve the meeting minutes with the correction and Nasim seconded. Motion passed.

III. SIG's Initiatives Report and Recommendations:

SIG 1: Scott Ayotte presented a PowerPoint presentation of SIG 1's legislative engagement proposal draft to provide a framework to work collaborative and to engage APAs (see attachment). After the presentation, Jamie thanked SIG 1 for a wonderful job in creating a systemic process for MAPAAC to follow. Furthermore, MAPAAC will rely on Frank Waters, LARA's Office of Policies and Legislative Affairs (OPLA) Office, Michigan Immigration Rights Center and MONA Joint Legislative/Advocacy Committee (JLAC) to monitor legislative bills that may affect APAs.

Bing Goei commented that it may be difficult to determine if a bill may impact legal immigrants and foreign nationals since the bill is written under the legal status, but it may affect immigration law; It depends what facets we are looking at the bill. Bing and Frank Waters are always in conversation on the passing of a bill that may have an impact of the immigrant communities. The JLAC will be an important part of the discussion of bills affecting legal immigrants. The one of goals of JLAC is to

proactive in talking about what should our legislators should be thinking about to make Michigan a welcoming state.

Shelly Edgerton commented on how LARA's process of review bills and they may not see all the facets of the bill that may impact the immigrant community. She stated that it is important for the two way communication with MONA and individuals from the commission to bring the bill to LARA's attention to look at it, if it is not on OPLA's radar. In term of analysis, if there is a bill that may impact the commissions, OPLA will do an analysis and seek help with MONA and the commissions.

Jamie commented that SIG 1's proposal is what MAPAAC's internal operations (box); we didn't talk input (what comes in) and what's the output (what MAPAAC communicate outside). He concluded in thanked David Long and Scott Ayotte for the presentation and SIG 1 for their hard work.

SIG 2: Ryan Rosario introduced the MAPAAC's toolkit and the short version (At-A-Glance) to the commission and thanked Denise and Muhith for their work in compiling the information of the top ten issues from the 11 town hall meetings and survey results for the toolkit. He shared the most recent SIG 2 activities that included an Open House Forum where state agency representatives from DHHS, Attorney General office and LARA, at an Asian restaurant in Madison Heights. We introduced the toolkit at this forum and explained it purpose to help guide Michigan residents to find information and help of their issues. The response from the attendees was positive and appreciated the opportunity to learn of the services that are available to them. The next open house forum will be in September 24th in Grand Rapids.

Jamie thanked SIG 2's work, Denise and Muhith work in the toolkit to ensure that the creditability of MAPACC is prevalent to the APA community by hosting the 11 town hall meetings and addressing the top 10 issues resulted from the meetings through our toolkit. MAPAAC will continue to listen to the voices of APAs and we hope that this will help the State departments target programs and services to serve the needs of APAs. Jamie commended the commissioners for their support of sharing the information and participation of our Open House Forum and other activities.

Bing congratulated MAPAAC on the toolkit and commented that the other ethnic commissions are duplicating the resources in the toolkit. Connie commented that the commission has been talking about creating a toolkit since 2009 and it is wonderful that this has come to fruition. She also liked that idea of the toolkit is a live document online and would like to add resources from the West Michigan area.

Anand Kumar asked for 100+ copies of the Toolkit "At-A-Glance" to be distributed to his community. Denise will make the copies and give them Anand. Kaushik also requested 100 copies for the September 24th forum. Denise will have them for Anand and Kaushik at the Sept. 14th dinner.

Denise commented that she will draft a press release after the Toolkit online. Shelly Edgerton commented to evaluate the timeline to have a press release on the Toolkit prior to the online version. Denise agreed to investigate the opinion on the timing of the press release.

SIG 3: Roland Hwang, leader of SIG 3, thanked Kaushik and Denise on behalf of SIG 3 for their work in coordinating the third anti-bullying workshop on the west-side of the state. SIG 3 are hosting this workshop because of a survey in the APA students. They received the top issues facing APA students and the number one concern was bullying. All the workshops are to address the issue with panel discussions and parent and student roundtable discussion with the speakers. The forum in Grand Rapids on September 24th, 1-3 pm at the Kent ISD piggy-backing the open house forum in the morning. The speakers include: Dr. Steve Robbins, Diversity and Inclusion Expert, Melissa

Kiesewetter, Anti-bullying Specialist from MDCR, Bushra Alawie, who will talk about Act to Change, a federal program lead by the White House Asian American Initiative and Suzy Khourzy, will speak on the state's OK2SAY, a student safety initiative.

Denise shared the promotional plans for the two forums in Grand Rapids and thanked Bing Goei and Minnie Morey for their support in posting the event information on their Facebook and assisting in the publicity of the forums. In addition, there will be one press release on both forums. Bing commented that he can assist in scheduling interviews with the local media in the Grand Rapids area. Roland and Jamie agreed to be the spokespersons of the anti-bullying forum. Bing will schedule the interviews a few days prior to the anti-bullying event in Grand Rapids and Denise will provide talking points about the forum to present to the media.

Roland continued his report asking the commissioners to save the date of January 30, 2017 for the Korematsu dedication at Canton High School at 7:10 AM-9:00 AM. Also on January 27, 2017, in Dearborn Public School. Location will be determined.

Jamie stated that the Korematsu dedications is growing and making an impact in the schools. Jamie congratulated SIG 3 for their work in bringing the awareness of civil rights and encouraging people to raise their voices, if they see discrimination in action.

Roland commented on the K-12 social studies curriculum revisions and the teachers from Northville, Plymouth and Canton, are working on curriculum revisions that include material from Korematsu Institute, so students can learn about Korematsu's experience as part of their learning in the curriculum.

SIG 4: Joe Tasma, leader of SIG 4, talked about the MAPAAC Leaders' Forum and Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, September 14, 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM at the Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel. The program include speakers from the three state departments- LARA, MDCR, MDHHS and four APA organizations – Asian Center SE-MI, WMAAA, APIAVote-Michigan and NAAAP-Detroit. Attendees include the APA Legislative Caucus and community leaders. He encouraged the commissioners to attend and invite their communities to RSVP for this networking event.

Jamie commented that this event is a leader's forum, where leaders from the state and from the APA community are invited to network and have discussions. If the event is successful, this will become MAPAAC's signature annual event. He added that the program will include the state of APAs in Michigan and we will highlight four different APA organizations and the state agencies will talk about their programs which address the concerns of APA.

Connie Dang commented that will be a West Michigan Asian American Association Health Fair that MAPAAC is sponsoring for the Asian community. There will be a nail salon workshop on health and environmental hazards of the chemical fumes. To educate new nail salon owners, LARA is willing to have their staff talk about licensing and regulatory rules. Denise will email Shelly on the health fair and introduce her to Minnie Morey on scheduling the LARA's representatives.

Jamie encouraged the SIGs to continue to work on their initiatives for the new year. The SIGs can determine if they would like to switch leaders for their group and commissioners can move to another SIG if they would like to change their focus.

IV. Budget Update:

Ryan Rosario, Trustee, reviewed the budget report. The total budget is \$110,900.00. The total expenditure as of August 30, 2016 was \$69,988.74. The projection spreading is \$13,800.00. The remaining funds will be returned to the State of Michigan general fund.

Ryan announced that the 2017 budget will be \$112,400.00 starting on October 1, 2016 with our new state department, LARA. The end of the fiscal year with MDCR is September 30th. All invoices and reimbursements need to be submitted to Denise on September 17th for processing.

Another change is the mileage allowance for hotel stays. It has changed from 75 miles one way to 50 miles one way for any MAPAAC meeting and events. Hotel room cannot be access &75.00 per night and commissioners need to work with Denise on expenses and reimbursements.

The rainy day fund will be transferred to that State of Michigan and held in a sub-account in LARA. MAPAAC will have access to the funds only and will need to submit a request to withdraw from the account.

Denise encouraged the commissioners to look at their 2017 initiatives starting on October 1st and determine the funds needed to accomplish their goals and share the information with her. Also, Denise will email the sponsorship request form to the commissioners to give to an organization that is interested in submitting a request for funding from MAPAAC. The request will be reviewed by the executive committee for approval.

Jamie thanked MDCR and LARA for their support and managing the budgets.

V. Commissioner Terms and Reapply:

Jamie commented that the commissioner's term will end on November 30th. In general, there is a maximum of two –four year terms per commissioner, unless there are unusual circumstances there is a third term. There are five commissioners who terms are ending. If they are interested in reapplying, please go to the Governor's Web site to reapply.

Jamie shared the four C's: Composition, Commitment, Capability and Connection that are the criteria for the governor's appointment office to use to appoint MAPAAC's commissioners. He asked the commissioners to encourage any community leaders who they may think that he/she would be a great commissioner to apply for consideration.

VI. Annual Report Preparation:

Every year we prepare an annual report. The SIG leaders will need to give a short summary of the SIG's activities and outcomes. Denise will distribute the 2015 annual reports to the SIG leaders.

VII. Administrative Update:

Denise shared the invitations that MAPAAC's received and asked the commissioners who would like to attend the event:

- APIAVote-Michigan Annual Dinner on October 6th in Livonia.
- CAPA Leadership Summit on October 22nd in Warren.

MAPAAC sponsorships included the West Michigan Asian American Association Health Fair and Vietnamese American Association of Michigan Health Fair.

Jamie commented the criteria on sponsorship; the criteria must be service-oriented and/or education type of events. We do not sponsor celebrations or social events. The event must be

Pan-Asian focus, not an individual group and it must be open to all APAs. Also, we encourage the applicant to collaborate with other organizations for their event.

VIII. Next Commission Meeting:

Date: Friday, December 9, 2016 – Soraya Kim, Vice-chair will lead the meeting.
Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Location: LARA office in Okemos- to be finalized by Denise

IX. New Business:

Bing reported series of activities in MONA that included:

1. The Michigan International Talent Solution (MITS) program has made 30 placements and their goal was 25. The average salary for each placements was \$48,000.00 a year. The individuals (immigrants and refugees) were placed in positions of engineering, accounting, business analysis, and other jobs. The individuals had a minimum education of bachelor degrees, and they went through the process and connect them to employers who agreed to hire them. Bing encouraged MAPAAC to identify other employers who would want to participate in the program. Also, if there are individuals in their communities who are underemployed, have a minimum of a bachelor degree and if they are interested in returning back to their field of expertise in their home country, please submit their names to MONA.
2. MONA was selected by the White House in participate in their first national skills and Credentialing Institute and it is part and partnership with LARA licensing guilds and participate in their first conferences.
3. He is hoping to identify September 14, 2017 as the first combined ethnic commission meetings and a network gathering. Also, to invite the Governor to address and thank the commissioners for their contributions to the state of Michigan.
4. September 28th is the first Joint Legislative/Advocacy Committee meeting.
5. He shared and encouraged the commissioners to go to the MONA's Web site to view the Partners of New American Economy's study, *The Contributions of New Americans in Michigan*, which it's an in depth study of the contributions of immigrants has made to the state of Michigan. It covers areas of health care, agriculture, housing, visa/nationalization, international students, education, voting, undocumented population, etc. The information from the study will help address the myths and misinformation of immigration and refugees.
6. He shared with his conversations with other commissions that MAPAAC is always talk about and that we are doing good work. The other commissions' willingness to follow our lead as an organization. He hopes that during the September 14th meeting that the commissioners will share ideas with each other and strength the work they are doing.

X. Public Comments:

The commission welcomed Weichia Huang, Professor of Economy, Western State University. He was interested operations and functioning of MAPAAC.

XI. Announcements:

- Festival of India on September 17th in Southfield. Open to public.

- TiE-Con Midwest Conference, October 28-29: Theme is *Connected Mobility and Connected Healthcare*. The Governor is attending the meeting. Mark Fields may attend the event.
- The Association of Chinese Americans is having their 44th year celebration gala on October 21st in Glen Oaks in Farmington Hills. Stephanie Chang is the keynote speaker and Arianna Quan, 2016 Miss Michigan.
- APACC Salute to Excellence on September 23rd at Westin Hotel in Southfield. APACC will recognize APA entrepreneurs and professionals. They added global business leader as a new category for incoming companies that invest in Michigan from Asia.
- MAPAAC will observe the day of service of September 11th.

XII. Adjournment:

Ryan Rosario motioned to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Roland Hwang. Motion passed.

The meeting concluded at 11:53 a.m.

Minutes prepared by: Denise Yee Grim, October 31, 2016

Minutes submitted by

Jamie Hsu, Chair